

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An expression cassette containing an adenoviral VA1 promoter and a construct encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the construct is operatively linked to the adenoviral VA1 promoter.

Claim 2 (original): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi encoding construct is contained within a non-essential stem region of the promoter.

Claim 3 (original): The expression cassette of claim 2, wherein the non-essential stem region contains a BstEII site.

Claim 4 (original): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi encoding construct is a construct encoding a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a microRNA (miRNA).

Claim 5 (original): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi encoding construct comprises a loop containing from about 4 to about 9 bases.

Claim 6 (original): The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the loop contains about 8 bases.

Claim 7 (withdrawn/currently amended): A method for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell ~~a construct encoding an interfering RNA molecule operatively linked to an~~ the expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter sequence that directs the expression of said the construct in said cells the cell.

Claim 8 (withdrawn/currently amended): ~~The A method of claim 7, wherein the construct encoding the interfering RNA molecule is a construct encoding a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a microRNA (miRNA) for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 4, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.~~

Claim 9 (withdrawn/currently amended): ~~The A method of claim 7, wherein the RNAi encoding construct comprises a loop containing from about 4 to about 9 bases for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.~~

Claim 10 (withdrawn/currently amended): ~~The A method of claim 9, wherein the loop contains about 8 bases for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 6, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.~~

Claim 11 (original): A mammalian cell into which has been introduced a construct encoding an interfering RNA molecule operatively linked to an adenoviral VA1 promoter.

Application Serial No. 10/629,895
Amendment Dated 30 January 2006
Reply to Office Action of 29 November 2005

Claim 12 (original): The mammalian cell of claim 11, wherein the mammalian cell is a primary cell.